



## Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 67**

February Session, 2014

Senate Bill No. 364

*Senate, March 19, 2014*

The Committee on Housing reported through SEN. BARTOLOMEO of the 13th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING'S  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISIONS TO THE SUPPORTIVE  
HOUSING INITIATIVE STATUTE.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17a-485c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, in  
4 collaboration with the Commissioners of Social Services, Correction,  
5 Children and Families, [and] Housing, Developmental Services and  
6 Veterans' Affairs, the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority and the  
7 Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch, shall establish  
8 permanent supportive housing initiatives to provide additional units  
9 of affordable housing and support services to eligible persons.  
10 Individuals and families with special needs and individuals and  
11 families that are homeless or at risk for homelessness shall be eligible  
12 for such permanent supportive housing initiatives.

13 [(b) Permanent supportive housing initiatives and support services  
 14 shall be provided to: (1) Eligible households, as defined in section 17a-  
 15 484a; (2) families who are eligible under the temporary assistance for  
 16 needy families program; (3) adults who are eighteen to twenty-three  
 17 years of age, inclusive, and who are homeless, or at risk for becoming  
 18 homeless because they are transitioning from foster care or other  
 19 residential programs; and (4) persons with serious mental health needs  
 20 who are community-supervised offenders supervised by the executive  
 21 or judicial branch.]

22 [(c)] (b) The Connecticut Housing Finance Authority shall issue one  
 23 or more requests for proposals by persons or entities interested in  
 24 participating in such permanent supportive housing initiatives to  
 25 applicants that include organizations deemed qualified to provide  
 26 services by the Departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services,  
 27 Social Services and Children and Families. The Connecticut Housing  
 28 Finance Authority shall review and underwrite development projects  
 29 undertaken pursuant to such permanent supportive housing  
 30 initiatives.

31 [(d)] (c) The Departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services  
 32 and Social Services shall issue, within available appropriations, one or  
 33 more requests for proposals in a scattered site model for homeless  
 34 individuals with psychiatric disabilities and substance use disorders.

|   |              |          |
|---|--------------|----------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: |              |          |
| Section 1   | July 1, 2014 | 17a-485c |

**HSG**      *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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## **OFA Fiscal Note**

### **State Impact:**

| <b>Agency Affected</b> | <b>Fund-Effect</b>          | <b>FY 15 \$</b> | <b>FY 16 \$</b> |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Various State Agencies | GF - Potential Cost/Savings | Uncertain       | Uncertain       |

### **Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

The bill provides discretion on the prioritization of supportive services to the interagency council on supportive housing. The ability to re-prioritize individuals for supportive housing services may result in costs or savings to the state agencies administering the supportive housing initiative.<sup>1</sup> The extent of the impact would depend upon the prioritization method undertaken by the council and is therefore uncertain.

There is no fiscal impact to either Department of Developmental Services or Department of Veterans' Affairs resulting from their inclusion into the group of state agencies collaborating on supportive housing initiatives.

### **The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would

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<sup>1</sup> The interagency council on supportive housing consists of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Housing, the Department of Correction, the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (a quasi-public agency), and the Court Supervised Services Division. The underlying bill places Department of Developmental Services and the Department of Veterans' Affairs on the committee.

continue into the future subject to inflation.

**OLR Bill Analysis****SB 364*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING'S  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISIONS TO THE SUPPORTIVE  
HOUSING INITIATIVE STATUTE.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill adds the departments of Developmental Services and Veterans' Affairs to the entities with which the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) must collaborate in administering the state's permanent supportive housing initiative.

It gives the entities administering the initiative more discretion in determining eligibility by eliminating a provision under which services must be directed to:

1. people or families affected by psychiatric disabilities, chemical dependencies, or both, and who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless;
2. families who qualify for the temporary assistance for needy families program;
3. 18-to-23-year-olds who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless because they are transitioning out of foster care or other residential programs; and
4. community-supervised offenders with serious mental health needs who are under Judicial Branch or Department of Correction jurisdiction.

The bill also specifies that all homeless individuals and families, not only those listed above, are eligible for the initiative. By law, individuals and families who are at-risk of becoming homeless or who

have special needs are also eligible.

The other entities that administer the initiative with DMHAS are, by law, the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, the Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division, and the departments of Social Services, Correction, Children and Families, and Housing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Housing Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea     7        Nay   0        (03/06/2014)